

REMARKSAmendments

In the descriptive part of the specification, the status of several references has been updated and various minor errors have been corrected.

DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56

In fulfilling the duty of candor and good faith, the following documents are hereby disclosed to the Patent Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. It is not admitted that the information in the listed documents is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). The Examiner is requested to consider the documents in the examination of this application.

Accompanying this statement is a Form PTO-1449 in duplicate on which the documents are listed. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed and signed copy of the form once the documents have been considered.

The following documents were cited by the European Patent Office in the International Search Report dated December 16, 2003 for International Application No. PCT/US 03/27753, which is a counterpart for this application. The documents were cited in categories "X" (a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone), "Y" (document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art), and "A" (document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance). A copy of the Search Report is attached.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| <u>Document Number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Subclass</u> | <u>Category</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 4,857,880 | 08/1989 | Au et al. | 338 | 22 R | X |
| 4,924,074 | 05/1990 | Fang et al. | 219 | 548 | X |
| 5,089,688 | 02/1992 | Fang et al. | 219 | 505 | X |
| 5,166,658 | 11/1992 | Fang et al. | 338 | 23 | Y |
| 5,451,919 | 09/1995 | Chu et al. | 338 | 22 R | Y |
| 5,852,397 | 12/1998 | Chan et al. | 338 | 22 R | Y |
| 2002/109576 | 08/2002 | Wang et al. | 338 | 22 R | A |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| <u>Document number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Sub-class</u> | <u>Translation enclosed (?)</u> | <u>Category</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 0 762 437 A2 | 03/1997 | Europe | H01C | 7/02 | - | Y |
| 1 595 198 A | 08/1981 | Great Britain | C08K | 3/00 | - | A |

The following documents, not listed above, are referred to in the specification.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| <u>Document Number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Subclass</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 4,237,441 | 12/1980 | Van Konynenburg et al. | 338 | 22 R |
| 4,304,987 | 12/1981 | Van Konynenburg | 219 | 553 |
| 4,514,620 | 04/1985 | Cheng et al. | 219 | 553 |
| 4,534,889 | 08/1985 | Van Konynenburg et al. | 252 | 511 |
| 4,545,926 | 10/1985 | Fouts et al. | 252 | 511 |
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| 4,845,838 | 7/1989 | Jacobs et al. | 29 | 671 |
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| 5,049,850 | 09/1991 | Evans et al. | 338 | 22 R |
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| 5,582,770 | 12/1996 | Chu et al. | 252 | 511 |
| 5,747,147 | 05/1998 | Wartenberg et al. | 428 | 209 |
| 5,801,612 | 09/1998 | Chandler et al. | 338 | 22 R |
| 6,211,771 | 04/2001 | Zhang et al. | 338 | 22 R |
| 6,292,088 | 09/2001 | Zhang et al. | 338 | 22 R |
| 6,358,438 | 03/2002 | Isozaki et al. | 252 | 511 |
| 6,362,721 | 03/2002 | Chen et al. | 338 | 22 R |
| 6,640,420 | 11/2003 | Hetherington et al. | 29 | 612 |

Copies of Documents

In accordance with the Notice dated July 11, 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. documents are being submitted. Copies will be sent on request. Copies of the non-U.S. documents are enclosed.

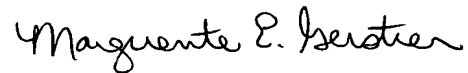
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Applicants believe that because this Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first action on the merits, no fee is due. If this is incorrect, please charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 18-0560.

Conclusion

The Examiner is asked to call the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marguerite E. Gerstner".

Marguerite E. Gerstner
Registration No. 32,695
Telephone (650) 361-2483